



## **NAPPO POSITION ON**

### **INSPECTION AND TESTING OF PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL FROM VIRUS-TESTED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

The international movement of propagative material has the potential to spread a wide variety of pests. Plant viruses are the greatest concern because their detection at point of entry is usually impractical and/or impossible. These viruses are carried by their plant hosts and a favorable environment can lead to their establishment and spread in the country of destination.

The challenge for national plant protection organizations is to identify phytosanitary measures which prevent the spread of quarantine pests from one country to another while allowing trade to take place without excessive restrictions or delay. In response to this challenge, many countries have developed certification programs to prevent viruses from spreading via vegetatively propagated plant material. (See Attachment 1)

These virus-tested certification programs are often the sole basis for phytosanitary certification of propagative material. The presence of any organism in propagative material produced in the certification program would be an indication of failure of the program and would justify regulatory action by the importing country. This is analogous to finding live insects in a consignment which had been fumigated. In this case, the survival of the insects indicates that the treatment has failed.

Specific details regarding sanctions as a result of instances of failure of the certification program such as suspension of producers, effect on the overall program including market access, etc. should be elaborated in a bilateral agreement between the exporting and importing country.

## **CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

Most certification programs usually include the following elements:

- C registration of the producers wishing to produce and/or ship virus-tested plant material;
- C parental plant material that is free from the pathogens of concern and is maintained free from these pathogens through the application of special measures during growth (e.g. isolation, pest management);
- C regular inspection and testing of the parental plant material to verify freedom from these pathogens;
- C propagation and multiplication of the clean parental plant material under specific conditions to minimize risk of pest spread;
- C auditing of the production (propagation and multiplication) procedures and inspection and testing of the propagated plant material to verify freedom from these pathogens.